Ciarametaro Deposition Transcript Excerpts

| | Page 1 |
|----|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT |
| | FOR THE WESTERN DISTRIC OF TEXAS |
| 2 | AUSTIN DIVISION |
| 3 | x |
| 4 | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA |
| 5 | Plaintiff |
| 6 | vs. CA No. 1:23-CV-00853-DAE |
| 7 | GREG ABBOTT, in his capacity as |
| 8 | GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, |
| 9 | and THE STATE OF TEXAS |
| 10 | Defendants |
| 11 | x |
| 12 | |
| 13 | DEPOSITION of THOMAS CIARAMETARO |
| 14 | Tuesday, July 9, 2024 - 9:22 a.m. |
| 15 | US Attorney's Office for the |
| 16 | District of Massachusetts |
| 17 | 1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200 |
| 18 | Boston, Massachusetts 02210 |
| 19 | |
| 20 | |
| 21 | Reporter: Jill K. Ruggieri, RPR, RMR, FCRR, CRR |
| 22 | Job No. CS6783958 |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |
| 25 | |

Page 57 1 What types of law would you 2 consider yourself to be an expert in? 3 Α Maritime law, Chapter 90B, Mass. General Laws, boating laws, maritime navigation 4 laws, stuff like that. 5 6 Q Okay. 7 Would you --8 Α Federal laws, maritime federal laws. 9 Would you consider yourself a legal Q 10 expert in interpretation of the Rivers and Harbors Act? 11 12 Α No. 13 Are you offering any -- in your report any legal interpretations of the Rivers 14 15 and Harbors Act? 16 I believe I do, yes. 17 Are you offering those as opinions to 18 be considered or just as background information 19 about the case? 20 Background information and Α definitionwise, or certain definitions, 21 22 quotations from the Rivers and Harbors Act, and 2.3 as background information. 24 Did you -- did you do that research yourself or did you -- or was that something 25

Page 58 that you had to rely on others --1 2 Α I didn't rely on anybody, but I -- it was a combination of research that was provided 3 and research that I did on my own. 4 5 Are there any assumptions you were asked to make by Texas that you then agreed to 6 7 make and incorporate into your opinion? 8 I was given some definitions in which I did not rely on. Due to my experience, 9 10 education and training, I came to my own conclusions. 11 12 O Okay. 13 So there's no -- so your report does not include any definitions that you just 14 15 accepted and relied on from someone else. 16 If -- anything in there is something that you 17 had independently determined? 18 There are, I believe, two definitions 19 in here which were given to me by the State of Texas, but I did not solely rely on them to 20 21 make my determinations. 22 Q Okay. 2.3 Which two were those? I'd have to look. I believe there 24 Α 25 may actually be one...

Page 59 1 (The deponent read the document.) 2 3 Oh, no, it's two -- navigable waters --4 5 Can you mention for the court 6 reporter what page? 7 Oh, sorry, page 9 of Exhibit 1, 8 navigable waters. And I believe the term 9 "buoy" on page 18 of Exhibit 1. I believe 10 that's it, unless I'm overlooking something. 11 And so the one -- so on page 9, 12 navigable waters, that would be beginning from 13 the sixth line down on that page? Just let me make sure... yeah, I 14 15 believe so. 16 So would I understand that correctly 17 to be the portion from that line through the 18 end of that page? 19 Α Correct. 20 That's the navigable waters Q Okay. definition you referred to. 21 22 And then on page 18, buoys. 2.3 Would I understand correctly that you're 24 referring to the beginning of the first line of 25 text on that page?

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Page 60
                 Yes, sir.
 1
            Α
 2
            Q
                 And from there, how far down?
 3
            Α
                 Just that first paragraph.
            Q
                 Okay.
 4
 5
                       So that first paragraph of, I
 6
       think, seven lines?
 7
            Α
                 Correct.
 8
            Q
                 Six lines. I can't count. Sorry.
9
                       (Laughter.)
                 Yeah. Six.
                               Six.
10
            Α
11
            O
                  Thank you.
12
                       Do you consider yourself to be
13
       an expert in economics?
14
            A
                 No.
15
                  So are you -- so, for example, you
       testified earlier that some of the factors that
16
17
       would go into whether a waterway is a highway
18
       of commerce would be the conditions physically
19
       of the waterway and some would be the
20
       infrastructure, right?
21
            Α
                 Correct.
22
                  I take it you're not offering
23
       opinions in this case about -- from an
24
       economist's point of view about, you know,
25
       whether the cost and benefits would justify
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Page 61 1 creating the infrastructure in the Rio Grande 2 that might give rise to greater river-borne 3 commerce? 4 Not specifically, but I do know that 5 part of the Army Corps's process in improving 6 infrastructure, such as dredging, is to do a 7 cost-benefit analysis. 8 And is that an understanding you gained from your involvement in applications to 9 the USACE? 10 And being involved in 1 1 Α Yes. 12 implementing a dredging plan and project that 13 we -- I presented along with others to the 14 Corps. 15 The dredging of the Annisquam 16 River was a multiyear convincing, if you will, 17 of getting federal funding, because it's 18 considered a shallow-draft navigation project. So there's a cost-benefit 19 20 analysis piece that was particularly tough for 21 us to prove, because the commerce that

typically uses that area is not considered commerce by the Army Corps's definition, which is commercial fishing.

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It's a commercial fishing port.

Page 62 So I'm pretty familiar with that process. Very 1 familiar. 2 3 And so you're saying in that -- in that project, the commercial fishing was not 4 considered as a commerce? 5 6 Α Correct. 7 How were you able to surmount that? 8 Α The lack of navigability at tides -certain tides created a public safety -- a 9 10 threat to public safety and to first So that's how we were ultimately 11 responders. 12 able to surmount that, was Gloucester's an 13 It's separated by the Annisquam River. 14 So if you had an emergency, let's say, on the 15 north side, you would have to travel 17 miles 16 out and around to get to that emergency. Coast 17 Guard rescue boats, harbormaster, local police, 18 at certain tides, because it was so shallow, 19 were unable to navigate the river, thus 20 increasing, you know, response time 21 exponentially. So that's the case that we ended 22 2.3 up making and ultimately getting funding. 24 Q Okay. 25 And that ultimately led to the

Page 64 1 prior to working on this case? 2 Α I had been to the southern portion near South Padre Island a long time ago, that 3 I don't remember the specific area we 4 5 were in. 6 We were on boats traversing the 7 Gulf area, but southern portion. 8 Q Okay. 9 You hadn't been further upriver on the Rio Grande --10 11 No, sir. Α 12 -- prior to this case? Q 13 Α No, sir. And since being involved with this 14 15 case, you have visited the Rio Grande in the 16 vicinity of where the floating barrier is located; is that right? 17 18 Yes, sir. And if I refer to "floating barrier," 19 Q 20 will you understand that to be the connected objects -- buoys, as they're referred to --21 22 that have been placed in the river and became 2.3 the subject of a lawsuit? I would. 24 Α 25 Q Okay.

Page 65 1 And have you visited that area 2 just one occasion or more than one? 3 A Just once. 4 Q Okay. 5 Was that June 7th of this year? 6 A Yes, sir. 7 Q Okay. 8 And with whom did you take the tour that day on June 7th of that area? 9 10 Α DPS, Department of Public Safety, I believe their state police. 11 Texas. 12 0 Did any Texas counsel attend with 13 you? 14 Α No. 15 Do you know if any other consultants 16 to Texas in the case attended with you besides 17 yourself? 18 Just me. 19 Q Can you describe what things -- what 20 parts of the area did you get to see that day? I believe it's called Shelby Park, is 21 22 where I met the state police officers. 2.3 around that area in the park and then proceeded 24 roughly two to two-and-a-half miles southbound 25 on the Rio Grande River until we got to the

Page 66 buoy barrier. 1 2 0 And about how much time did you 3 spend, you know, within sight of the buoy barrier? 4 5 Α Maybe an hour to an hour and a half, maybe, roughly. 6 7 And that day as you were headed there 8 to observe it, were there particular things 9 that you intended to try to observe about, any 10 particular details that were going to be important for you? 11 12 Α The placement, how it was placed, how 13 it was constructed. I had a good 14 understanding, because from my report, on 15 page 18, you can see the buoys on land. 16 So I had kind of a good 17 understanding on what they were and how they 18 worked before I had gotten there. Observed the 19 depth of water, stuff like that. 20 And what did you -- once you got 0 there, what did you observe about the depth of 21 22 the water? What was its depth at that time? 2.3 It varied, but certain parts of the Α

some parts of the river, there was no water at

river seemed to be three to four feet deep; and

24

25

Page 69 1 And they said that they're 2 supposed to know, but they rarely do know if there's going to be a release. And then what 3 that kind of looks like, how high the water can 4 5 get or low it can get. 6 Q What did they say in terms of how 7 high and how low the water can get? 8 They said it can vary a couple of feet in certain areas. Other areas still 9 10 remained dry depending on the topography of the river, high spots or low spots. 11 12 They said it really just kind of 13 all depends on where you're at specifically in the river. 14 15 Did you ask them about if there's any 16 sort of typical seasonal variation in the water 17 depth? 18 I did not bring up seasonal 19 variation, no. 20 And you mentioned seeing a 14-foot Q 21 Border Patrol boat out that day. 22 Did you see any other boats on 2.3 that stretch of the river that day? 24 Α No.

Earlier I asked you about the other

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Page 70
       cases in your list where you're involved as an
 1
 2
       expert.
 3
                       I think I had asked this, but do
 4
       any of those cases involve a river
5
       specifically, that type of waterway?
6
            A
                 No.
7
                 You mentioned that there were just
8
       two definitions given for Texas, you've already
9
       explained where those were, on page 9 and 18.
10
                       I just want to make sure, there
11
       is a paragraph on page 32, the second paragraph
12
       there when you get to that page.
13
                       Do you see the sentence that
14
       begins, "Finally, the buoys are not other
15
       structures" --
16
            A
                 That was also provided, and I had
17
       previously misspoken. This was also provided.
18
       I forgot that this was down towards the bottom
19
       of the report.
                 Okay. Got it.
20
            Q
21
            A
                 So --
22
            Q
                 Okay.
23
                       So in terms of definitions given
24
       to you by Texas --
25
            A
                 Mm-hmm.
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Page 71
                  -- it would be the ones you testified
1
            Q
 2
       about on page 9 and 18 --
3
            A
                  Correct.
 4
            Q
                  -- and this paragraph on page 32?
5
            A
                  Yes, sir.
 6
            Q
                  From -- and it's about, I'll say, a
7
       ten-line paragraph beginning, "Finally, the
       buoys are not other structures"?
8
9
            A
                  Correct.
            O
10
                  Okay.
11
                       And that is the only portion of
12
       your report that discusses that topic, correct?
13
                  I believe so.
            A
14
                  I just want to ask you something
15
       about your -- this is --
16
                       I'm looking at Exhibit 2,
17
       page 39 of 42, and there's a section on your
18
       education and training.
19
            A
                  Which page was that again, sir?
                  Page 39 --
20
            Q
21
            A
                  Yeah.
22
                  -- of 42 in Exhibit 2.
            Q
23
            A
                  Yes.
24
                       (The deponent read the
       document.)
25
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Page 72 So it mentions associate of applied 1 science, fire science, at North Shore Community 2 College. 3 Α Correct. 4 And can you explain what you studied? 5 6 Α It's chem fire and hazmat, and it's 7 exactly that. It's fire science, the science of hazardous materials and combustion and fire. 8 9 Q Okay. And then -- and then after that, 10 you acquired a bachelor of science from 11 12 Endicott College, correct? 13 Α Yes. And it refers to homeland security, 14 15 criminal justice. 16 Is that specifically -- was 17 there a specific major -- like, is it bachelor 18 of science in --Criminal justice concentrated in 19 Α Homeland Security studies. 20 Okay. Understood. 21 0 22 So the -- so the degree is 2.3 criminal justice but within that you had a concentration in homeland security? 24 25 Α Correct.

Page 140 Α 1 Yes. 2 Q And this was -- you testified 3 earlier -- I was asking you, you know, what are the options for improving the river's 4 5 navigability, and I believe you said that 6 dredging or locks and dams would be the -- were 7 the two options; is that right? 8 Α Mm-hmm. Yes. 9 Q Okay. 10 And in this case, have you attempted to quantify, like, how extensive, for 11 12 example, dredging would have to be in order to 13 make that stretch of the Rio Grande a navigable channel? 14 15 I have not quantified it on paper. 16 My experience is it would be very substantial, 17 considering most parts of the Rio Grande River 18 right now have no water in them or very little 19 water, and to dredge to a depth that would 20 support some kind of commerce is uncalculable 21 But I'm sure it is being -- it, you 22 know, is quantifiable, for sure. 2.3 Q Okay. 24 But I'm not going to throw a number Α

at it, because I just don't know.

25

Page 141 1 I know it would be a giant 2 project, considering the smaller projects I've been involved in, and how long and expensive 3 they were to complete. 4 5 But you've not gone through the 6 exercise in this case of attempting to 7 conceptually identify what would be the scale 8 of the project here, correct? 9 Α Correct. 10 Q And then you've not attempted to 11 quantify what would be the cost of that project 12 at that scale? 13 A Correct. 14 0 Okay. 15 And part of that sentence I read, towards the end, it refers to "sufficient 16 17 quantities to justify the commercial 18 navigation." 19 I take it you've also not 20 attempted to sort of define a threshold, like 21 what is sufficient to make the project 22 worthwhile? 2.3 If it's not in my report, I haven't 24 quantified it. 25 Q Okay.

Page 142 And the next sentence says, 1 2 "Addressing the nearly 600-foot elevation 3 changes over the 335-mile stretch from Eagle Pass to Laredo, Texas, would require an 4 5 impractical amount of resources and 6 infrastructure investment." 7 Do you see that? 8 Α I do. 9 And again, I take it you've not Q 10 attempted to sort of quantify, like, the threshold at which a resource investment would 11 12 be impractical for a project? 13 Α No. 14 The prior page, page 4, enumerated 15 paragraph 1, there's a sentence there, it says, "The Rio Grande River between mile markers 16 275.5 and 610, and particularly in the Eagle 17 18 Pass area, does not meet the criteria of a 19 navigable waterway conducive to commercial 20 navigation such that it can operate as a highway of commerce." 21 22 Do you see that sentence? 2.3 Α I do. 24 You recall -- I was asking you 25 earlier if -- if a specific water, the

Page 149 EXAMINATION 1 BY MS. AL-FUHAID: 2 3 0 I have some cross. Okay. Mr. Ciarametaro, T.J., you 4 5 testified earlier in response to one of 6 Mr. Lynk's questions that you are a legal 7 expert in maritime laws. 8 Do you recall that? 9 I do. Α 10 You are not a lawyer, correct? Q Correct. 11 Α 12 Q When you said that you were a legal 13 expert in maritime laws, what did you mean? I mean throughout the course of my 14 15 training and experience in my jobs, I've become 16 very proficient at those specific parts of the 17 law, such as maritime navigation laws or 18 maritime rules of the road. 19 I'm an expert in that, and those 20 are laws, so I'm -- that's what I meant by 21 that. So would it be more accurate to say 22 23 that you're a navigation expert rather than a 24 legal expert? 25 Α Yes. I am not a lawyer.

Page 150 So you also testified that you're not 1 2 a legal expert on the Rivers and Harbors Act. 3 Do you recall that? Α I do. 4 5 What did you mean by that? 6 Α So I mean I'm not a lawyer. Again, I 7 am an expert in the laws pertaining to 8 permitting all these -- all structures, piers, 9 docks, boat ramps, under the Rivers and Harbors 10 Act, but I'm not a legal expert on the 11 document, but I am an expert in the permitting 12 process, which is outlined in this report. 13 And so is it accurate to say that you 14 have offered opinions on that process under the 15 Rivers and Harbors Act but not legal opinions? 16 Yes. Legal opinions are left up to Α 17 the court. 18 Now, I'd like you to turn to 19 Exhibit 1, page -- let's see -- page 32. 20 Α Okay. 21 And it's the last paragraph under 22 opinion No. 4. I'd like to direct your 23 attention to that paragraph. 24 Α Okay. 25 Q Is it your opinion that the buoys do

Page 151 not affect the course of the Rio Grande River 1 2 in such a manner as to impact its navigable 3 capacity? 4 A Correct. 5 Q What is the basis for that opinion 6 that the buoys do not affect the course of the 7 Rio Grande River in that manner? 8 For all things that we discussed 9 today in this deposition, my personal 10 experience in that area, being on a boat and 11 witnessing that area firsthand, the totality of 12 this entire report gives me that opinion. 13 0 And is it your opinion that the buoys 14 do not affect the location of the Rio Grande 15 River in a manner as to impact its navigable 16 capacity? 17 A Yes. 18 O What's the basis for that opinion? 19 A Same as what I just gave for the do not affect the course. 20 21 And is it your opinion that the buoys 22 do not affect the condition of the Rio Grande 23 River in such a manner as to impact its 24 navigable capacity? 25 A Yes.

Page 152 1 Q What is the basis for that opinion? 2 A Again, all the research and all the 3 photographs and all the documentation inside 4 this report, plus my firsthand eyewitness of 5 the buoy barrier in the Rio Grande gives me --6 gives me that opinion. 7 Now, earlier you and Mr. Lynk 8 discussed some projects that you have worked on 9 under which you sought Section 10 permits from 10 the US Army Corps of Engineers under the Rivers and Harbors Act. 11 12 Do you recall discussing that 13 with him? 14 Yes, I do. 15 How many years of experience do you 16 have doing the permitting process under the 17 Rivers and Harbors Act -- under Section 10 of 18 the Rivers and Harbors Act? 19 Α Roughly nine. And can you estimate as to how 20 0 21 many -- just an estimate, not an exact 22 number -- can you estimate how many projects 2.3 you have worked on that involve that permitting 24 process? 25 I've been involved in that process Α

Page 153 from people -- private people trying to permit 1 2 those processes -- trying to obtain those permits, or are you looking for myself 3 actively, or all together? 4 5 All together. 6 Α Hundreds. 7 Have you -- have some of those --8 have some of those projects been for the placement of -- strike that. 9 10 Have you been involved in any projects -- set aside whether under Section 10 1 1 12 or not, just any projects at all in which you 13 placed buoys in a waterway? 14 Α Yes. 15 Can you give some examples of such 16 projects? 17 Gloucester Harbor or Gloucester 18 proper, the municipality has between, like, 19 1400, 15- or 16- -- between 1400 and 1600 20 permitted moorings, mooring balls and mooring buoys that are privately held but permitted 21 22 through the city and my department. 23 The City of Gloucester has 30 24 transient mooring buoys that we install, take 25 care of, maintain and move periodically.

Page 169 regulatory authority to -- to enact or enforce. 1 2 0 But if you had legal questions, would 3 you consult the appropriate attorneys for the city? 4 5 Yeah, or the state or -- yes, 6 absolutely. 7 And you would not suggest to city 8 officials that they consult you about legal issues, correct? 9 10 Α No. I have -- no. MS. AL-FUHAID: I have no 11 12 further questions. 13 MR. LYNK: Some cross. 14 15 FURTHER EXAMINATION 16 BY MR. LYNK: 17 You were testifying about an opinion -- well, first, let me ask you, just to 18 19 make it really clear, you've been testifying 20 about a paragraph on page 32. And originally in your testimony you described it as a 21 22 paragraph consisting of a definition received, 23 but you were explaining subsequently that there 24 could be aspects of this that were from you and 25 aspects that were received definition.

Page 170 Do you recall the testimony? 1 2 Α I do. 3 0 Might it be accurate that the first 4 sentence of this paragraph, which says, 5 "Finally, the buoys are not other structures 6 under the RHA, " and the concluding sentence, 7 "The buoys do not affect the course, location," and it goes on to finish that sentence, do I 8 9 take it that those were yours? 10 A That's correct. 11 And then the remainder of this 0 12 paragraph has -- refers to a couple of regulatory provisions and gives a quote or at 13 14 least description of content of those, and it 15 includes also a citation to a statute and a 16 case citation; is that right? 17 A Correct. 18 Would you say that that content would 19 be the received definition portion, or are you 20 saying some of that also was yours? 21 No, that is -- that is the definition A 22 portion. You are correct in your statement. 23 Q Okay. I got a little confused earlier, 24 A 25 because I had changed some stuff here, and --

| | Page 171 |
|----|------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | but looking back and reading it thoroughly |
| 2 | again, that's a correct statement. |
| 3 | Q Understood. Glad to clear it up. |
| 4 | And in the second sentence of |
| 5 | the paragraph, in the received definition, it |
| 6 | appears to be quoting a regulatory definition |
| 7 | of "structures," right? |
| 8 | A Correct. |
| 9 | Q And it gives a long list of things. |
| 10 | It includes one of the things included in |
| 11 | the list is "aid to navigation." |
| 12 | Do you see that? |
| 13 | A Correct. |
| 14 | Q Is it your understanding that aids to |
| 15 | navigation buoys can be aids to navigation? |
| 16 | A Buoys are can be, yes, absolutely. |
| 17 | Q Okay. |
| 18 | So is it fair to say there may |
| 19 | be circumstances where a buoy would be covered |
| 20 | by this regulatory definition? |
| 21 | A Yes. Per my understanding is |
| 22 | it's permanently affixed aids to navigation |
| 23 | that never move. |
| 24 | Q The last sentence, you were |
| 25 | testifying about earlier that the buoys in |

Page 172 part, it says, "do not affect the course of the 1 Rio Grande River." 2 3 Do you see that? Α I do. 4 5 And you explained generally what that's based on. 6 7 Α (Nods.) 8 Q But I wondered, in determining that 9 the buoys do not affect the course of the 10 Rio Grande River, did you attempt to take into 11 account any information that would look at, you 12 know, what are the circumstances as of when 13 they were first placed versus what are the 14 circumstances now? 15 A No. This is based on my 16 accountability of what I saw now and where they 17 are now. 18 And did -- do you have an 19 understanding of roughly when they were first 20 placed into the Rio Grande? I believe it's been just over a year. 21 I think it was June of 2023, I think. I -- if 22 23 my memory serves me correctly. 24 Q Okay. 25 Roughly a year ago from today?

Page 173 Α Mm-hmm. 1 2 Q And so if I understand your previous answer, you did not attempt to develop 3 information that would look at, okay, you know, 4 5 this was the conditions of the river very 6 locally to this placement in June-July of 2023, 7 and then we're going to compare that to what 8 it's like in June or July of 2024? 9 I've seen photographs of where they were before on the Internet. I have not seen a 10 firsthand account, but they're still placed in 11 12 the same geographic location. 13 They're just moved, which would be to the east, X amount of feet. 14 15 Have you attempted to look at whether 16 there have been any localized changes in current, for example, within the close vicinity 17 18 of where the buoys were placed during this past 19 year? 20 If it's not in my report, I didn't Α have an opinion on it. 21 22 Q Okay. 2.3 And when you talk about the 24 "course," what is the course of the Rio Grande? 25 What does that mean?

| | Page 174 |
|----|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | A The direction of water flow. |
| 2 | Q Direction of water flow. |
| 3 | A (Nods.) |
| 4 | Q Okay. |
| 5 | So this is so this opinion |
| 6 | is generally, it's based on your |
| 7 | point-in-time observation when you made your |
| 8 | site visit in June of 2024? |
| 9 | A Correct. And subsequent videos of |
| 10 | the Rio Grande and so on. |
| 11 | Q Okay. |
| 12 | So subsequent videos taken |
| 13 | subsequently to the date of your site visit? |
| 14 | A Yes. |
| 15 | Q But not videos taken during the |
| 16 | period prior to that? |
| 17 | A I don't believe so. |
| 18 | Q Okay. |
| 19 | And the same would be true in |
| 20 | terms of what you looked at regarding |
| 21 | condition? It would be the day of your site |
| 22 | visit and videos subsequent but not information |
| 23 | prior? |
| 24 | A No, I there's information prior |
| 25 | from in the report. I think it's on page |

| | Page 175 |
|----|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Quite a bit of information on |
| 2 | the prior, actually. Just let me find it here. |
| 3 | (Pause.) |
| 4 | A There's information here on page 11 |
| 5 | of Exhibit 1 from 2001, first time in recorded |
| 6 | history, the Rio Grande was too weak to flow. |
| 7 | And I also have information |
| 8 | about an excursion here. In 2014, journalists |
| 9 | tried to traverse the entirety of the |
| 10 | Rio Grande River and were unable to due to the |
| 11 | lack of water in the Rio Grande. |
| 12 | It's called page 12. |
| 13 | Figure 4 has a photo of a man walking a canoe |
| 14 | down the river because it was too shallow to |
| 15 | even canoe in certain parts. |
| 16 | So there's quite a bit of |
| 17 | information historically about the flow and the |
| 18 | depths of the Rio Grande in this report. |
| 19 | Q Those references are from prior to |
| 20 | the first placement of this buoy barrier, |
| 21 | right? |
| 22 | A Correct. |
| 23 | Q Okay. |
| 24 | So so to so it would be |
| 25 | accurate to say that in looking at the buoys |

| | Page 176 |
|----|-------------------------------------------------|
| | |
| 1 | not having affected condition, you had earlier |
| 2 | information historic information, as you |
| 3 | called it, and information about the condition |
| 4 | at the time of the site visit, and video |
| 5 | information afterward, but not information |
| 6 | during the period from roughly June 2023 up |
| 7 | until before the site visit? |
| 8 | A Correct. |
| 9 | Q Can buoys cause very localized |
| 10 | eddies, for example, in the water? |
| 11 | A They can. |
| 12 | Q Can they cause localized changes in |
| 13 | direction of flow? |
| 14 | A In changes in direction of flow? |
| 15 | Q Yes. |
| 16 | A No, in a river, no. |
| 17 | Q Eddies, yes. Not changes in flow. |
| 18 | All right. |
| 19 | And is that is that would |
| 20 | that be an example of something that you looked |
| 21 | at specifically in determining that the buoys |
| 22 | didn't affect the course or condition? |
| 23 | A Yes. |
| | |
| 24 | Q Okay. |
| 25 | And again, you would have looked |

Page 177 at that during your site visit, you would have 1 looked at the video that was taken afterward, 2 not evidence taken during the period from 3 June 2023 up until the site visit? 4 I believe that's correct. 5 6 Q You mentioned that you -- you 7 testified about the number of permit 8 applications you had been involved with and 9 whether any were for buoys. Have you ever been involved with 10 something that resembles this buoy barrier, 11 12 like a thousand-foot connected string of buoys? 13 Α Nothing quite that long. 14 0 Okay. 15 Have you ever applied for a 16 permit for any type of structure of that size? 17 Α No. Of buoys? No. 18 Q Okay. 19 Any type of structure that size? 20 Not quite a thousand feet. Α Probably 200 -- 2- to 300-foot pier, pile-supported pier 21 22 with a docking gangway attached. 2.3 Q Okay. 24 Have you -- for any of the buoys 25 that you placed, were they moored with concrete